

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 7096 - SB 7050

August 22, 2023

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires the Department of Education (DOE) to establish and administer a school bulletproofing grant program to provide grants to eligible schools to have installed a clear, bullet-resistant or entry-resistant film on the glass panel of each exterior entry or basement-level window. Defines “eligible school” as a local education agency (LEA) or a public charter school located in a county that has a crime rate of 13 percent or higher for violent offenses as of October 1, 2023, based on CrimeInsight data from the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI). Creates a separate fund within the General Fund to be known as the School Bulletproofing Grant Fund (Fund). Establishes the legislative intent that funding in the amount of \$100,000,000 be appropriated in FY23-24 in an appropriations act for awarding grants from the fund.

Requires DOE to allocate and disperse grants each fiscal year to eligible schools. Subject to the availability of funds, requires the grants to be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis and limits the award to the cost associated for the school to install bullet-resistant or entry-resistant film, provided that the grant does not exceed \$50,000. Requires monies in the fund to be invested by the State Treasurer for the benefit of the fund and interest accruing on investments and deposits of the fund to be returned to and remain part of the fund. Requires that any unexpended fund balance remaining at the end of a fiscal year to be carried forward until expended. Authorizes the State Board of Education to promulgate rules. Requires DOE to prepare a report to the General Assembly, on or before January 1, 2025 and by January 1 of each subsequent year, regarding the funds received and payments made by the Fund. Effective October 1, 2023.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures - \$100,000,000/FY23-24

Other Fiscal Impact – To the extent that the grants do not cover the costs for LEAs and public charter schools to install bullet-resistant or entry-resistant film on the glass panel of each exterior entry or basement-level window, a permissive increase in local expenditures may occur. Due to multiple unknown variables, the extent and timing of any such local fiscal impact cannot be reasonably determined.

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Assumptions:

- The proposed legislation requires DOE to establish and administer the School Bulletproofing Grant Fund to provide grants to eligible schools through an intended initial appropriation of \$100,000,000 to be appropriated in FY23-24.
- DOE will be able to administer the grant program within existing resources without a significant increase in state expenditures.
- An eligible school must be located in an LEA, or a public charter school in a county, that has crime rate of 13 percent or higher for violent offenses as of October 1, 2023, based on CrimeInsight data from TBI.
- Based on DOE survey responses from 137 out of 147 school districts in October 2022, there are over 48,490 exterior doors within Tennessee public schools. It is unknown how many of those exterior doors have window panels and it is further unknown how many exterior windows exist in public schools across the state.
- The amount of square feet of glass on which eligible schools will need bullet-resistant or entry-resistant film installed cannot reasonably be estimated with currently available data.
- Based on different market estimates, security window film can range in cost from approximately \$8 to \$16 per square foot, excluding installation costs, and bullet resistant film averages around \$125 per square foot.
- It is unknown if the initial appropriation of \$100,000,000 and the maximum grant award of \$50,000 will be sufficient to cover the cost to provide grants to all eligible schools to have bullet-resistant or entry-resistant film on the glass panel of each exterior entry or basement-level window. If the grants awarded by DOE are insufficient to cover the costs, a permissive increase in local expenditures may occur. However, due to multiple unknown variables, a precise fiscal impact cannot be reasonably determined.
- It is assumed that grant awards will continue in subsequent years to be dispersed to eligible schools until all funds have been exhausted.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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